ILWU Wins Reliance Steel Strike

LOS ANGELES—Approximately 120 members of ILWU Local 26 have returned to work after waging a successful two-week strike at Reliance Steel last month.

The Reliance workers were out between November 15 and December 1. They had maintained a solid picket line throughout the strike and shut down this steel fabricating facility.

**WAGE BOOSTS**

As a result of the strike, the Local 26 members here won a new three-year agreement. The contract features wage increases of 65¢ the first year, 60¢ the second year and an additional 60¢ in the last year for warehousemen and helpers, who comprise about 40 percent of the work force.

All other workers, such as machine operators and levels, won increases of 70¢, 60¢ and 50¢.

All members also won an additional holiday, an additional six cents per hour on pensions, and maintenance of medical, dental and prescription benefits.

Although the contract was approved on November 29, the men did not return to work until December 1. The company, however, agreed to pay them for the Thanksgiving holiday and the day after as well. This alone averages out to another 5¢ increase.

The negotiating committee consisted of Bernard Loy, Jr., Al Brito, Jim Maples, Dieter Koch, Esmir Svarthou, and Business Agent Sid London. Local 26 President Joe Ibarra assisted.

US Labor Board Voids ILA’s Container Rules

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Labor Relations Board has ruled that the agreement between the International Longshoremen’s Association and its employers that longshoremen must unstuff and stuff certain container shipments at the Port of New York are illegal.

The board said that such agreements between the ILA and the New York Shipping Association are illegal secondary boycotts aimed at concerns that consolidate small shipments into container loads.

The 4-0 decision overturns an earlier decision by an NLRB administrative law judge who last year ruled that the practice was a legitimate attempt by the ILA to preserve its jurisdiction.

**50-MILE LIMIT**

The dispute involves an agreement between the ILA and the shippers that longshoremen are to unload and reload certain cargoes sent to the port from within a 50-mile radius. The agreements affect a number of consolidators, or concerns that accept less-than-full loads from shippers, combine them into container loads and send the full shipment to the port.

The 50-mile rule is currently not being enforced because of a variety of injunctions issued by federal courts as a result of actions brought by the consolidators.

The board’s order will require that all containers, no matter who owns them or where they were loaded, will have to be handled without being stripped and restuffed, and without being subject to a substantial penalty.

Despite the fact that the case involved only operations between the mainland and Puerto Rico, container handling operations at all North Atlantic ports, from Boston to Hampton Roads, come under the NLRB order.

Next Dispatcher, January 9

This will be the last Dispatcher issue for 1975, in accordance with policy established at ILWU Biennial Conventions, establishing a schedule of 24 issues per year. The next issue of the paper will appear on January 9, 1976.
On the Beam
by Harry Bridges

MATTER HOW LONG I LIVE, I am afraid that I will never be able to adequately express my deep thanks to the hundreds of good friends—inside and outside the ILWU—who came together in my honor at the testimonial dinner, November 29. The whole spirit of the evening, the way the banquet was carried off, was very touching to me, and it was a tribute for the people that organized the affair and those that attended.

I think it's also appropriate to repeat the main theme of my talk that night: that while I was certainly touched and flattered by the attention and the gifts I received—the true hallmark of that evening was the entire workaday movement of the waterfront. All the work, the victories and even defeats of rank and file representatives over the years made that evening possible, and in this sense I said that the dinner was a tribute not specifically to me, but to all workers everywhere.

Sure, I happened to wind up in the top post of this union. The media, the commercial press, found that I helped them sell newspapers. By focusing on me, the charges that I was a subversive, the efforts to deport me, they made me into a hero, or a villain, whichever you prefer. But I don't take it personally. I know that whatever attacks have been levelled against me, or whatever credit, I've received as a result, has been because I was the representative of the membership of this union.

So I was “controversial,” but what the controversy was really all about is whether or not the workers on the waterfront, in the warehouses, and in the fields and hotels of Hawaii deserved a decent life.

While they and all people in the labor movement were out pounding the pavements, getting their heads bunted, getting thrown in jail, I got the big name. Just let's not forget the people who really did the job.

I CAN'T LET THIS opportunity go by without mentioning a few of the most obvious names—and hope that everyone will understand that there are hundreds, even thousands more, each of whom contributed in some significant way.

First of all, it's timely here that I pay tribute to the enormously important contribution to the growth and development of this union made by our secretary-treasurer Leo Goldblatt. People like Henry Schmidt, J. R. "Bob" Robertson, Rosco Craycroft and Gerry Bulcke who served for years as international or local officers; people like Vince Hallinan (who, along with Paul Robeson are the only surviving honorary members of the International)—I should also mention that Pauline Goldblatt was reared in the ILWU family.

Then there's Matt Meehan, first Pacific Coast Secretary of the ILWU who went to Hawaii in the 1930s to check out organizing possibilities there, and Frank Thompson, another giant in the history of this union who played a big role in organizing on the islands before he became an effective officer for Local 17, Sacramento. Of course, I'll never forget the help we received over the years from some of our friends in other sections of the labor movement—guys like Joe Murphy and Dan Del Carlo of the San Francisco building trades.

It was also great to see Hubert Brown and his wife—as a former vice-president of Pacific Far East Lines, Hubert stuck his neck out for me when he testified as a character witness on my behalf when the US government was trying to deport me. Walter Buck of American Distillers, Victor Pearson, the first President of PMA and Ken Fennemore of States Line also put their own reputation on the line for me back in those days. I think they understood that they were also sticking their necks out for the membership of this union when they did that.

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE introduced the Rev. Montgommie Paul Meinecke, another character witness for me. I wish he could have been there to share in the glory. But Paul died last year. Let me also acknowledge all the private citizens, elected officials, businessmen, professionals, who have helped the ILWU when we asked for it. For every person I mentioned here, there were ten more people behind who pushed and supported him along the way. All the members of the waterfront who stuck their necks out for me, who cared enough to speak up, to disagree. And there are hundreds of people no longer with us who deserve the credit, too—I could fill at least two or three columns with their names. So, I will never be able adequately to thank the people alive and dead who deserve recognition, and I can only hope they understand that they too were being honored that night at the Fairmont.

In the meantime, I am going to relive and enjoy the excitement of that night, and remember all the nice things that people said about me. And I am sure going to try to reeducate myself to helping build an even stronger ILWU and a stronger and united American working class.
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. government has confirmed earlier private reports of a record increase in third-quarter corporate profits.

At the same time, the Commerce Department reported that real gross national product grew in the third quarter at a faster rate than was originally estimated. The revised gross National Product figures showed real GNP—gross national product adjusted for inflation—increasing at an annual rate of 13.2 percent, instead of the 11.2 percent reported last month.

PRODUCTIVITY UP

Underlying the huge profits increase was an unusually sharp rise in productivity during the third quarter. The productivity rise is offsetting higher wage costs, stabilizing or pushing down unit labor costs and thus widening profit margins.

The after-tax earnings increase of 17 percent was the largest since a 22.1 percent rise in the third quarter of 1966. It was the second quarterly increase in profit growth. The increase represented a 12.4 percent rise in the April-June period.

Before-tax book profits in the third quarter were up $5.5 billion to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $104.1 billion, the Commerce Department noted in its preliminary estimate of third-quarter corporate earnings. The increase in book profits consisted of $7.6 billion in earnings from current production plus $3.3 billion in inventory gains.

"The book profits for the quarter were accounted for by manufacturing industries, especially in durables as earnings of those industries grew much more sharply," the government observed. "Strong advances were also recorded for railroad operating profits and for electric and gas utilities.

Corporate profits from current production represented a 105 percent surge, the largest rise since a 22.9 percent advance in the second quarter of 1966.

OVERSEAS PROFITS

Profits of American branches or subsidiaries in foreign countries rose to a $5.7 billion annual rate from a rate of $3.5 billion in the previous quarter.

'Butch' Uhrhan Retires; Was PMA Safety Chief

SAN FRANCISCO—O. W. "Butch" Uhrhan, who has served for the last decade as PMA's Coast Director of Ocean Transportation and Marine Terminals, has retired on December 1.

Uhrhan joined PMA in 1955, establishing the employer association's Training Department which was the first and still remains the only such program sponsored by an employer group in the maritime industry.

EXTENDS OPERATIONS

Set in Washington in 1958, establishing the employer association's Training Department which was the first and still remains the only such program sponsored by an employer group in the maritime industry.

Before coming to PMA, Uhrhan was associated with the US Naval School in Oakland where his primary field was overseas transportation and minimal management. He is one of the nation's leading authorities on shipping operations.

Effective December 1, PMA reverted to its former policy of two departments at the coast level. Vern Newton will be Director of Accident Prevention and Leo Balderson will be Training Director.

LOCAL 57 TIGHTENS UP ON SAFETY

FRESNO, Calif.—When confront- ed last week with increased worker dissatisfaction over the deterioration of safety conditions at the Anderson-Clayton cotton compress facility, the plant manager became angry and accused everyone of "trying to run my plant for me."

So officers of ILWU Local 57, which represents cotton compress workers throughout the San Joaquin Valley, were forced to turn to the state gov- ernment for a remedy.

LEAKS, CARBON MONOXIDE

Local 57 members at Anderson- Clayton had been complaining that the lunchroom was so leaky during the rainy season that "it was better to be outside," says Local 57 Busi- ness Agent Ernest Clark. Not only was it impossible to eat comfortably but electrical wiring was also getting wet.

In addition, carbon monoxide ex- hasted from the forklifts in the ware- houses had become increasingly heavy, causing reddening of the eyes, nausea, headaches, etc., among a large group of workers.

PLANT MANAGER BALKS

Earlier this month, Clark along with Northern California Regional Director LeRoy King and Interna- tional Vice-President George Martin attempted to discuss the matter with Anderson-Clayton's plant manager. But the company official was un- willing to discuss the matter. Clark says, and insisted on maintaining his absolute authority.

Local 57 immediately called in the State Department of Industrial Re- lations. Inspectors appeared within a matter of days, and after observ- ing the heavy gas levels and carbon monoxide levels in the warehouses, issued citations ordering An- derson-Clayton to correct these con- ditions immediately.

Hawaii Court Rules:

Strikers Can't Get Unemployment

SAN FRANCISCO—"If you don't use what you've learned here," you've wast- ed your time, instructor Bill Burke told his students on the last day of class.

"Butch" Uhrhan, who has served for the last decade as PMA's Coast Director of Ocean Transportation and Marine Terminals, has retired on December 1.

Among the students this week were more than 35 students attending the last session of the Local 6 Publicity and Education Department at the San Francisco Maritime College.

LOCAL 6 HISTORY — International Secretary-Treasurer Lou Goldblatt de- scribed the last session of Local 6 to members attending the last session of the union's Trades Union Procedures class. Instructor was retired Business Agent Bill Burke.

San Francisco — "If you don't use what you've learned here, you've wasted your time, instructor Bill Burke told his students on the last day of class. Burke said that since 1957, when he started teaching the members are attending the last session of the union's Trades Union Procedures class, Burke said that since 1957, when he started teaching the first aid training course, he has been teaching the members are attending the last session of the union's Trades Union Procedures class.

LEAKS, CARBON MONOXIDE

Goldblatt related the early history of the organization of waterfront-based warehousemen in the local and during the 1956 strike, the effects of many within that local to expand organizing "uptown.

"Most of us felt that there was no purpose in organizing terminal ware- housesmen when there were public warehouses three blocks away mak- ing half the wages." Once organizing got underway, he recalled "we grew by leaps and bounds.

TREMENDOUS LOYALTY

Goldblatt touched on the difficulties faced by the union and the problems it faced during the 1956 strike. He said "we did not face what we had taken the lead on many issues—on racial discrim- ination, on the steward system, and also because even in the worst of it, we had maintained good relations with our sister unions in the AFL.

GOOD ATTENDANCE

Approximately 35 students attended classes on Wednesday nights at East Bay headquarters, while another 15 at- tended in San Francisco on Monday nights. The classes were organized by the Local 6 Publicity and Education Committee.

Instructor Burke was a Local 6 East Bay Business Agent for many years until his retirement in 1974.

log & Symonds law firm, announced that John Han, business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 137, will appeal the verdict.

The union undoubtedly will appeal it all the way to the Supreme Court. Other unions, including the ILWU, are strong in support of the IBEW's position. Among them are: the Hawaii State Federation of Labor AFL-CIO and the HGEA.

Intervening in the case on behalf of HGEA were the Hawaii Employers Council and the U. S. and State of Ha- waii chambers of commerce.

HAWAII "GUESSNA PIG"

ILWU Regional Director Bob McEl- рath commenting on Pence's deci- sion said: "The employers nationally selected HGEA as a guinea pig for obtaining this verdict."

The Hawaii State compensation law permits unemployment benefits to be paid if a company is able to operate at 80% or more of normal capacity during the strike.

Rhode Island and New York allow a company to operate at 50% of normal capacity during the strike while the other 48 states by law generally disallow the benefits, about 12 states, in- cluding Hawaii permit payments in cer- tain situations. The State Supreme Court ruled that the Hawaii law is legal.

The employers have taken the stand that since noon and continuing on is entirely employer-supported, payments should not be allowed because then, employees are free to help a strike against themselves.

PENCE BARKS EMPLOYERS

Pence ruled that if an employer was successful in "resisting the union attack and keeps his business in substantially full operation, the State, after the first week of the strike, takes sides against the employer, and for the strikers."

Pence's view is completely different from labor's. Union spokesmen pointed out that in the trial and in testimony by Legislators that denial of benefits put the State on the employers' side against the workers.

State Labor Department director Joshua Apgaraid agreed with labor that it would be "punitive" to deny compensa- tion to strikers.
SF Labor Studies Program
Sets Spring '76 Schedule

SAN FRANCISCO — Enrollments are now open for the Spring Semester of the Labor Studies Program of the San Francisco Community College District. Classes will begin on February 4, 1976. The evening courses, sponsored by the college and its labor advisory committee, are available free of charge to anyone interested. Union members can take the classes just because they want to learn more or for credit, for a Certificate in Labor Studies or toward a regular City College AA Degree.

These courses are an excellent way for officers, stewards, and members to learn more about how unions work, their functions, machinery, labor law, economics, etc. They can help everyone become more effective union members in the difficult days ahead for all unions.

Here are the spring offerings:

- **Labor and the Law:** Introductory day covering the legal framework of labor-management relations, including protection of individual and minority rights. Meets Wednesday, 7-9 p.m. starting February 4, 1976 at 35 Gough Street, Room 268.

- **Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining:** Bargaining, organizing, strike, legal and administrative side of the collective bargaining process (second half of a year-long course). Meets Wednesday, 7-10 p.m. starting February 4, 1976 at 35 Gough Street, Room 268.

- **Grievance Handling and Arbitration:** A practical course for stewards, union officers, and others interested in techniques of conflict resolution and legal problems in the workplace. Meets Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. starting February 5, 1976 at City College Campus, Arts Building, Room 266. 2 units.

- **The American Labor Movement:** Monday evenings, 7-9 p.m. starting February 8, 1976 at City College Campus, Arts Building, Room 266. 2 units.

- **Labor and Politics:** The American labor worker in politics, yesterday and today. Objectives and organization of American unions. Issues, relations, class struggle to political parties, tactics. Meets Thursday, 7-9 p.m., starting February 5, 1976, at City College Campus, Arts Building, Room 267. 2 units.

- **Economics for Labor and Community Leaders:** A non-technical explanation of how the American economy works and of economic policy. A labor view of inflation, automation, collective bargaining, with special attention to economic forces affecting collective bargaining. Meets Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., starting February 10, 1976, at City College Campus, Arts Building, Room 266. 2 units.

- **Health and Safety in the Workplace:** Designed to provide the tools for recognizing and controlling the hazards to which workmen are exposed (chemicals, air quality, machinery safety, etc.). Federal and State Occupational and Safety legislation, and a survey of resources available to assist in the recognition and control of workplace hazards. Meets Tuesday, 7-9 p.m., starting February 9, 1976, at City College Campus, Arts Building, Room 266. 2 units.

- **Women in the Labor Force:** Patterns of women's employment, sex stereotyping of work opportunities, historical struggles for equality, the evolution of rights under law, the role and use of unions to achieve equality. Meets Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., starting February 5, 1976 at San Francisco Community College Center, Arts Building, Room Gough Street, Room 266. 2 units.

- **For Further Information or Applications:** Contact local union or write to Labor Studies, 35 Gough Street, San Francisco 94103. Phone, 864-3200.

New AFL-CIO Leaders
Take Office in Oregon

PORTLAND—Robert Kennedy of the Machinists Union was installed Dec. 1 as the new state AFL-CIO president. Nellie Fox of Retail Employment Union, who was sworn in as labor federation's legislative and political director last June, will be re-elected for the AFL-CIO state convention in Seaclade last September. The election symbolized the labor movement's growing solidarity among its affiliates, but was withheld in a recent ruling of national AFL-CIO president George Meany.

Dean Kilion and Lloyd Kudinose, the two officials unseated by Kennedy and Fox, reportedly are being considered for political jobs. Kilion as a member of the state workers' compensation board.

Local 8 President Addresses Montana Grain Growers

PORTLAND—Dick Wise, president of Local 8, participated in a commuter-labor-business panel at the annual convention of the Montana Grain Growers Association, Nov. 20, in Great Falls.

The only labor leader invited to address the grain men, he was warmly applauded when he explained the ILWU position on world trade.

Most newspapers, including those in the Portland area, seemed unaware there is a difference between the ILWU position on wheat sales to the Soviet Union, and the ILA position, Wise told the grain men.

Charles Mayfield Dies

SAN FRANCISCO—Charles Mayfield, 69, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Area Penitentiary Club, died last week.

Mayfield, a former member of Local 10, had served his union for 45 years as business agent, dispatcher, convention and caucus delegate, Northstate California District Council, trustee, and LCR member.

Pine Talks Begin

HONOLULU—Local 143 opened negotiations with the pineapple industry on behalf of 6,000 pineapple workers on December 10. The current contract expires January 31, 1976.

Local 143 spokesman Tommy Truck said that the main union demands were for a substantial wage increase.

For further information or applications contact Local 143, 35 Gough Street, San Francisco 94103. Phone, 864-3200.

Coast Arbiter Scores Bridges

Bridges greets outgoing Federal Maritime Commissioner Helen Bentley.

Former California Gov. Pat Brown.

A Testim...
The Bridges Testimonial Dinner

International Vice-President William H. Chester served as chairman.

Local 34 President Jim Herman introduced Bridges, Mrs. Nikiti Bridges at right.

Closing benediction by Rev. Wilbur Hamilton.

A blessing by Magr. Matthew Conolly.

Matson Lines President Robert J. Pfeiffer.

New Safety Standards Issued by OSHA

(The following article is taken from a recent edition of the Union News, published by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union.)

WASHINGTON—Stepped up activity by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has resulted in the publication of a flush of proposed standards among which are asbestos, lead, silicosis, beryllium, trichloroethylene and 11 other toxic chemicals.

While the proposed standards do tighten up exposure levels in many cases, all of the proposals contain some serious flaws and inadequacies, according to preliminary analyses made by the OCAW Legislative Department.

One serious drawback common to all of the proposed standards is a provision which allows the employer to remove an employee from a job if a physical examination indicates the need to do so to protect the employee's health.

There is no provision for job transfer with corresponding protection of the worker's rate of pay and seniority should transfer be necessary.

Another shortcoming of all the proposed standards is that each will ultimately be accompanied by an economic impact statement.

It is OCAW's contention that such economically feasibility studies have no place in the standard setting process.

Workers' health and safety should not be subjected to economic tradeoffs.

Economists, Unionists Must Work Together

LOS ANGELES — UAW President Leonard Woodcock has called for a closer relationship between environmentalists and the labor movement on the pressing need to reduce pollution within the workplace as well as in the community.

"The environment does not end at the plant gate," Woodcock said. "The air in the factory, one's health, all the pollutants dumped outside, and then some. Workers are often the first to feel the effects of the many substances we breathe and drink."

Speakers at an annual meeting of the Planning and Conservation League in Los Angeles, Woodcock urged those in the environmental movement to become involved in the issue of the environment inside the workplace.

"Labor needs allies in the political fight to set better standards for workplaces and to prevent the weakening of occupational safety and health legislation and to counteract the under-funding and under-enforcement of the safety and health programs which exist," he said.

Woodcock said that America's factories have become, in a sense, "laboratories for health effects, with workers as guinea pigs." He cited the far higher levels of pollution allowed by law inside plants compared with those allowed in the general community.

"The allowable concentration of carbon monoxide in the plant is 50 parts per million, eight hours a day every day," he said, "while outdoors the concentration is limited to only 9 parts per million on only one day a year."

Local 23 Xmas Fete

TACOMA—All children of members and family members of ILWU Local 23 are invited to the annual Christmas Party at the ILWU Union Hall at 1710 Market Street, December 19, 1975, at 7 p.m.

J. P. Patches, Gretitude and Santa Class of KIRO-TV, Seattle will be here to entertain you, also cartoons will be shown. Hot dogs, ice cream, pop and other goodies will be served. Each child will be presented with a candy cane. Come and join up for a big evening of fun.
PORTLAND—"The Union is the best thing going," says Emil Peterson, oldest living member of an ILWU pension group. "It was a time of a lot of hard work."

Born in Kalmar, Sweden in 1892, he has good reason for saying so. The story of his life is that of a seafarer, sailing on ships, at the hands of crimps and boarding masters in Portland harbor, and as a man "along the shore" in pre-union days in the same port, sailing the cargo vessels of O'Neill & Jack London.

He was at the old-timers' regular monthly meeting in the Longshore Hall as usual, Dec. 3, although he is now 96.

He would row them ashore and keep them in their room until they found work. How many seamen he rescued from crimps and boarding masters, he does not recall.

During the years he went to Alaska, he worked in the winter on the docks, so on Oct. 10, 1910, he joined the Longshoremen's Union, (ILA in those days).

96-year-old Local 8 veteran Emil Peterson at a recent Portland pensioners meeting.

In 1922 he was working on 12 timbered in the No. 4 hatch. "This fellow driving winch had too much slack, and it opened the jib boom. I was hanging on the timber, it hit the rail and I hit the water on top of the timber. They went under it, and made a somersault, and came up in the same hole I went down in!" He was hoisted up to safety.

"The fellows on the raft did not dare come near me. The winches were going fast. If we had been a few months before, we would have been eaten alive!"

"The fellows on the raft did not dare come near me."

The FOREIGN-BORN

He recounted these experiences, not as dramatic events but as ordinary happenings in the life of a foreign born worker, which they were.

Census figures record that 24.6 percent of Portland's population in 1910 consisted of "foreign born whites." "(Un- der a city ordinance, blacks and "mutes" if caught in the area could be "lattos" if caught in the area could be)

"The fellows on the raft did not dare come near me."

The BLS report pointed out that oc- casions when workers were injured while working in the sawmills, logging camps, can- dles, candy making, the food stamp program was experimen- tal and covered only eight counties.

Myth No. 3—Mr. Simon declared that "only a few weeks ago a na- tional magazine advertised a booklet that told people how to obtain food stamps even if they were as well as 10,000 a year."

The Facts — USDA has asked the Fed- eral Trade Commission to consider bringing charges of deceptive and "misleading advertising against the ad's sponsor."

Portland's Largest

The port is still the largest shipper of wheat in the world, but now nearly all the wheat is shipped by the Dutch-owned vessel will pick up 25,000 tons of wheat, for instance, in one load. The next largest shipper is the Panamanian vessel, which will load 20,000 tons in Kalama and top out in Puget Sound.

She sails under the Liberian flag. Most of the crew is Indonesian.

Local 8 veteran Emil Peterson first came to the US in a ship like this before the turn of the century. — photo courtesy Oregon University Library

Oldest Oregon Pensioner

Still Thinks ILWU Is Best

WASHINGTON, D.C.—About one in every 10 full-time workers in private industry was injured on the job in 1974, according to a recent report, "Fatality rates remained level in manufac- turing, transportation and public utilities and mining, with rates slightly in less hazardous industries."

Workplaces having 10 or more workers employed in ship building averaged the highest overall incidence rate of in- juries in 1974, the report said. Establishments with fewer than 50 or more than 1,000 workers appeared to have better safety records.

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turing, transportation and public utilities and mining, with rates slightly in less hazardous industries. Workplaces having 10 or more workers employed in ship building averaged the highest overall incidence rate of injuries in 1974, the report said. Establishments with fewer than 50 or more than 1,000 workers appeared to have better safety records.

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Reporting on our trip to the Philippines is difficult, because many people, particularly in our union, have some pretty strong feelings on the subject. Many of our Hawaiian sugar and pineapple workers think of The Philippines as one big runaway plantation. For others, The Philippines means martial law, dictatorship, with the destruction of constitutional freedoms—a nation under the domination of the most powerful landowners, industrialists and American corporations.

We can only report what we saw. We were on the islands for two weeks in August, and so we can’t pretend to talk to anyone we could—people on the street, people in the sugar and pineapple fields, cannery workers, union officials, office workers, government workers, tax drivers, storekeepers, etc. We also had the advantage that one of our delegates, Fred Paulino of Local 142, has some family still in The Philippines, and we were able to talk to them openly and honestly. So here’s our report.

GENERAL ATMOSPHERE

This is a hard thing to pin down, but it seemed to us that the general atmosphere throughout the islands is relaxed, friendly and generally open. The streets and parks are well cared for, people are out in the streets window-shopping, visiting and enjoying Sunday afternoons on picnics, listening to music—and without any sign of an oppressive military presence. The shortages of food and growth—lot of construction of housing, government and private office buildings going on.

Of course, from the very outset we were interested in the question of labor law in the Philippines. As many people are aware, President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in September, 1972. We expected to see a repressive dictatorship. But throughout our visit, and in conversation with union leaders, rank and file members, family members and even casual acquaintances, we were continually told that martial law has done a great deal of good, particularly in the area of cutting down on street violence, robberies, etc.

FRED PAULINO’S FAMILY

Here’s an example: when we went to visit Fred Paulino’s family in Iloilo Norte, and we described the route we had taken from the capital city of Manila to their province, they told us that if it were not for martial law, we probably would have been hijacked, robbed and maybe even killed on the way to see them. Just about all the people we met confirmed this: before martial law, it was literally unsafe to walk the streets, they said.

How have the Marcos regime’s actions affected trade unions. President Marcos declared martial law in September, 1972. The labor code, Republic Act No. 442 is generally patterned after US labor laws and practices. It provides for social security, minimum wages, specified hours and conditions, non-discrimination, and specific duties and powers of labor organizations.

They are trying to solve what they consider to be some of their major problems: the lack of unity between the major labor federations, and resulting jurisdictional welfare. Somewhere percent of all violent strikes were caused by inter-union rivalry, we were told, before the imposition of martial law.

CENTRALIZING

The basic thrust of the new labor code is to reorganize all labor organizations into separate divisions with one union for each division. And so many of the smaller unions are now trying to consolidate—in order to obtain recognition they must have a membership of at least 10,000 and at least 10 collective bargaining agreements.

So they are driving to centralize the whole structure. They have agreed so far to set up divisions for transportation, wood and wood products, metal trades, petroleum, agriculture, construction, mining, communications, commercial and finance, mining, etc. Each division, officials told us, will then hold a convention to get things underway.

They were optimistic that this reorganization will have a great effect in helping the unions work together, avoiding rivalry, and generally upgrading the kind of representation they are giving their members. Time will tell.

NO STRIKES

But it is very important to point out to our fellow ILWU members that strikes of any kind are not permitted under martial law. We were told that the main reason for this is that Marcos is attempting to show foreign investors that labor in The Philippines is stable and peaceful.

Naturally, we wanted to see the operations of the longshore, pineapple and sugar industries. Since we wanted to specifically compare conditions here with things back home. So on Thursday, August 7, we flew south to the province of Negros Occidental, and the following day we were taken to several sugar mills—first to Jardine Davis (formerly T. H. Davis) and then to Victorias Milling Co. We also met with officers and members at the Hawaiian-Philippine Co., a Davis subsidiary.

Jardine Davis employs approximately 500 workers, and operates eighteen months out of the year. The workers at this mill were making $1.05 per day. The company provides housing, utilities and medical care at no cost, and the union has negotiated other fringe benefits such as retirement and death benefits, Christmas bonus, night shift differential, overtime, vacation and sick leave with pay. The housing also seems much improved.

At the Victoria Mill, the permanent daily workers make a bit lower than the Davis workers. Inside this mill conditions were very clean and modern, and apparently, judging from all the posters, there is a real emphasis on safety.

PINEAPPLE

We also visited the Del Monte cannery in the city of Bugo. The operations which we saw seemed pretty much the same as our Local 142 operations in Hawaii. There are approximately 2400 cannery workers here—1700 regulars and 700 intermittent and seasonal workers. They make $2 per hour, seasonal make $2.50. The electricians, machinists, fork lift operators and double seamers operators $4.50. As far as fringes are concerned, they get paid vacations, sick leave, etc.

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HOTEL INDUSTRY

While staying at the Hotel Magellan in the port city of Cebu, we had the occasion to meet with the head of the union who represented the dock workers there. He was most helpful. He told us that the 90 members in the Magellan earn wages ranging from the room boys, who make $1.20 per day up to the chief desk clerk who makes $1.65 per day. They were proud of their new contract which calls for pre-paid medical and dental care, plus pensions and other fringe benefits.

In the second largest port, Cebu, workers were also quite friendly. Most of the work is inter-island and overseas cargo. They have twelve men on the pier. They have fourteen men on the ship and seven on the dock, and they all belong to the same union, including the clerks.

LUGGAGE

There is a hard thing to pin down, but it seemed to us that the general atmosphere throughout the islands is relaxed, friendly and generally open. The streets and parks are well cared for, people are out in the streets window-shopping, visiting and enjoying Sunday afternoons on picnics, listening to music—and without any sign of an oppressive military presence. The shortages of food and growth—lot of construction of housing, government and private office buildings going on.

These are marine clerks who work in the Port of Cebu.

Robert Oca is National President of the Philippine Transport and General Workers Organization.
Rough Weather Hurts Ports In Northwest
EVERETT—Local 22 was hard hit by recent floods in western Washington, said Secretary Irvin Hansen.

The state's western counties were declared disaster areas. Unofficial damage estimates top the $50 million mark. Roads and bridges were washed out and homes flooded.

However, the loss to the local is in unfavorable market conditions and high shipping costs. As long as the river delta, destined for export, were damaged, said this would be felt throughout the entire community, already reeling from the loss of livestock and dairy farms.

Some dikes gave way and "some guys living in the suburbs could not make it to work because of water over the road between Aberdeen and Raymond."

"In the West end, he said, the Army Engineers had two 12-inch pipes cut the water intake for a day or so," said Ralph Rider, secretary of Local 21.

Highway 101, along which longshoremen live, was closed by flooding and miles of low lying farm land.

"Eight inches of rain fell here in three days," said Max Vekich, secretary of Local 24.

No vessels came in during the flood, but the wind blew so hard "that it kept the ship that was in away from the dock. The mate did not want to risk getting the cargo wet, so the one gang was ordered to work was sent home."

A cold front moving caused rains to stop falling and the floods to subside, but not until flood water had inches, almost to the highway between Longview and Castle Rock. In Castle Rock, where a number of longshoremen live, the water was cut off and the water intake for a day or so," according to Ralph Rider, secretary of Local 21.

"We are busy dragging dead animals out of the fields on flooded dairy farms." said Jim Platt.

"Log jams came down and cut the water intake for a day or so," Romey said.

"It makes it to work because of water over the road between Aberdeen and Raymond."

A number of our wives worked with the Salvation Army in flood relief. Aberdeen, also felt the effects of the flooding, although less severely than Everett.

Some dikes gave way and "some guys living in the suburbs could not make it to work because of water over the road between Aberdeen and Raymond."

"Foots broke apart and the legs sank in miles of low lying farm land."

Several log ships slated to load here within the next month have been rescheduled to other ports. Hansen estimated 60 ships have been lost to the Puget Sound local, and said this would be felt throughout the entire community, already reeling from the loss of livestock and dairy farms.

WIVES HELP Too

Members of the local have been busy dragging dead animals out of the fields with their duck boats and helping on coffee lines set up for flood workers.

"A number of our wives worked with the Salvation Army in flood relief."

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